WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1900-FOURTEEN PAGES.

The Evening Star is the Washington that receives the dispatches of the Assoelated Press. It is therefore the only one in which the reader can find the world, directly transmitted by telegraph, up to



Wonder what Mertz will say today?

AII Thoughts Are Of Spring.

Our emporium is fast taking on its spring attire. Every few days the drayman leaves in front of our door boxes filled with woolens for men's wear from the world's best makers. Our preparations are upon a larger scale than ever before. Saturday we received some choice suitings, which ought to sell for \$12.50, but in order to induce early buying we've marked them

\$10.

This is a very low price for a suit made to your order. Especially so, as there has been a great advance in prices of woolens and trimmings this season. At \$10 for a suit our profit is smaller today than than it was 2 years ago, but with the larger number of suits we are making the reduced profit on each suit is offset by our larger output, hence we will not advance our price, but will continue to give the same rare values as we have always given in the past. .

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TO FRAME

A Picture well that you've realty little excuse for letting mense stock of pretty molding for 19C. UP. SEWARD. & CO., 736 7th St.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

System Similar to That of Other Cities.

SUPERINTENDENT POWELL'S DEFENSE

Pupils Are Pushed Ahead Faster Than Under Old Methods.

EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS

Mr. Powell, superintendent of schools, continued to talk of methods of educating before the subcommittee of the Senate District committee yesterday afternoon after The Star's report of the hearing was closed. He claimed that the schools of this city are in good condition; that the scholars are further advanced than ever before, and that the system being taught is thoroughly satisfactory.

Senator Stewart presided and Senator Gallinger and Mr. Charles Moore, clerk of the committee, were present throughout the hearing, and all questioned Mr. Powell. The trustees present were Mr. George H. Harries, Judge Job Barnard, Mr. Jesse

H. Wilson and Dr. Hazen.
Mr. Powell contended that children spell more than they ever did, though they do not stand up in rows in the manner of the

old spelling bee. He said they never spelled so well as today.

"There has been a greater change in ten years in educational methods," said Mr. Fowell, "than there has been in the meth-old of running street cars. Any men who has d of running street cars. Any man who has kept up with street car systems and with educational methods has seen a greater change in the latter than with the former." He held that the children were advanced 50 or 100 per cent more than they were under the old system.

Senator Stewart—"Do you think they are farther advanced in spelling than they were formerly?"

Mr. Powell—"I know it. I do not fear an examination of the schools. As for composition, there is no comparison with the present over the old methods."

He dec'ared that by the time the child cept up with street car systems and with

He decared that by the time the child is in the fifth grade it will read the newspapers and follow the news of the day.

Early Grades Pushed Ahead.

The children in the early grades, he said, are twice as far advanced in arithmetic as they were under the old system. In the third grade the children are pretty well grounded in fractions, rounded numbers and abstract numbers. He admitted that the child is not taught the multiplication table until he understands it. He is not taught that "three times three is nine" until he is shown that three times three is really nine and until he fully realizes the fact. He must know the facts of arithmetic before he is taught the multiplication table.

power to dismiss a teacher."
e said that the method of teaching in
public schools here is the one in use in nearly all the cities of the United States. The teachers, he said, were not always satisfactory, because the wages paid were not sufficient to get men and women of broad experience. Formerly those who entered the Normal School were graduates of the High School but this year they admit college graduates to the Normal School. They pay better salaries in the schools of the west than here, so that the schools of this city do not get teachers from the west.

Complaints of Poor Spelling.

Mr. Stewart said he had had many comlaints that children did not learn to spell nd write. Mr. Powell said they write betier than they ever did. Under the old ystem a few learned to write a prescribed hand, but now they write an individual hand, so that a child in the slums writes just as well as the child in the northwest.

Mr. Gallinger read letters from people who said they dare not sign their names to them, but which criticised the system of teaching in the schools. One of these letters said it was a joke among the scholars of the High School that they cannot spell.

Mr. Powell maintained that the vocabulary of the scholars today is greater than in the past. hand, but now they write an individual

No Discipline Needed in the Schools. Another letter read by Mr. Gallinger said that Mr. Powell did not have the condence of his teachers and that he did not

pport them in matters of discipline. Mr. Powell said they had no discipline n the schools, or at least not any to speak of. They conduct the schools in a way that discipline is not necessary. He want-ed members of the subcommittee to exam-ine the schools if they did not believe what

he declared.

Mr. Stewart—"Has it banished the evils of playing hookey?"

Mr. Powell—"Almost. The way we are teaching is the only way that will banish it."

Ish it."

Mr. Powell claimed that for every person who complains about children having studying to do at home there are ten who ask that more work be sent home in order that they could learn more rapidly. He said it must be remembered that these children in the first and second grudes are in school but three and one-half hours a day.

Mr. Powell said complaints had come from colleges that boys could not gain admission to the leading colleges under the old system in vogue in the public schools. He added that the standard of admission to Harvard in English branches had advanced 25 per

Mr. Charles Moore, clerk of the commit-tee, who is a graduate of Harvard and whose son was admitted to that college last year, said that the requirements in English were exactly the same for his son as they had been for him in 1874.

The Colored Schools Mr. Powell read a letter from a colored correspondent, whose name he said he would not give, criticising the colored schools and the board of trustees. He said the board was guilty of nepotism and favoritism in the schools, and a number of irregular

there were other irregularities that were pointed out.

Gen. Harries said as that letter was going in the records he thought it was well that an explanation should go with it.

"There is probably some truth in that as to the colored schools," he said.

He admitted there had been a division in the board on the question of the colored schools. The colored members of the board of trustees, he said, resented interference in the affairs of their schools on the part of the white trustees. They fear, he continued to the reduced to a private and to forfeit \$10.

Private Robert Baylor, Battery M, 7th Artillery, and Sentenced to two months' confinement at hard labor. Privates John R. James, Battery H, 4th Artillery, and Adolf Liebhols, Battery M, 4th Artillery, were acquitted at the same post of the charges against them. there were other irregularities that were pointed out.

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"There is probably some truth in that as to the colored schools," he said.

He admitted there had been a division in the board on the question of the colored schools. The colored members of the board of trustees, he said, resented interference in the affairs of their schools on the part of the white trustees. They fear, he continued, that the superintendent of their schools will be made superintendent of their schools. They were anxious to retain a separate organization, though it was really not much of an organization. He thought it would be for the benefit of the colored schools to have white superintendence, but on account of the attitude of the colored members of the board the white members had not interfered with them. He did not think the colored schools should be let alone by the white trustees. The trustees had received indefinite charges of irregularities, but never had got them in a definite form.

The letter read by Mr. Gallinger, he said,

The letter read by Mr. Gallinger, he said, The letter read by Mr. Gallinger, he said, probably represents the condition in the colored schools, for which the white trustees are hardly responsible unless the schools were placed on another basis. He said the board was advisory in, its character and not an executive body. There should be some one central authority, he said, in the management of the schools. The board of trustees did not like to take hold of the management of the colored schools unless it has absolute authority. Until then the colored trustees must carry their share of responsibility, because they insist that the white trustees should not interfere with their colored schools.

Dismissal of Teachers.

Dismissal of Teachers.

Mr. Jesse H. Wilson called attention to the statement of Mr. Powell in regard to his powerlessness to dismiss teachers. Mr. Wilson said teachers are appointed for one year only, and that they had been asked to resign when incompetent. He said Mr. Powell's statement was apt to cause a mis-understanding on the part of members of

understanding on the part of members of the committee.

Mr. Powell said that after the discussion of the schools three months ago, and after a conference of the trustees, emphasis had been laid on the teaching of grammar,

spelling and writing.

He said that the studious interest which the present method of teaching has aroused in the scholars has done away with the dime novel reading that caused difficulty in the schools formerly.

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE.

Social Session Last Evening Succeeds The Business Routine.

Decorations, singing and refreshments marked the session of the Anti-Saloon League held last evening, a departure from the usual program at semi-monthly meeting of the organization. A committee of ladies, consisting of Mrs. Isabel Helmick, Mrs. Sara Smith, Miss Ida A. Gilbert, Mrs. Lizzie J. Allen and Mrs. Anni. McKinnon, had the arrangements in charge.

The meeting was held in the league's hall, at No. 623 Louisiana avenue, and before the social exercises the organization was the social exercises the organization was regularly assembled for business with President Ewin in the chair and H. W. Shipe as secretary. Vice President Canfield was called to preside temporarily, and Mr. Ewin reported as chairman for the committee on co-operation and the executive committee. The Association Cadets of the Y. M. C. A. were, on his motion, admitted to the league, increasing the number of affiliated bodies to 114. They named as their representative Mr. Arthur C. Smith, who was introduced to the league, together with several others present for the first time.

reference to a place in the first police pre-cinct he said it was closed two years ag with a bad record for disorders and gen eral disrepute against it; that the eral disrepute against it; that the condition of the neighborhood has greatly improved since, and that because of the overwhelming evidence of this a majority of the excise board had recently rejected an attempt to reopen it, although pressure was brought to bear on them by members of Congress. The mention of such pressure from outside of the District called forth expressions of indignation from several speakers, including Mrs. Margaret Dye Ellis of the national W. C. T. U., who was present as a visitor.

visitor.

Mr. A. N. Canfield, on behalf of the committee of arrangements, presented President Ewin with a handsome bouquet of carnations, which had been transferred to

his office his office.

Other addresses were by Mr. Jesse C.

Suter, the first representative of the league
before the excise board, and afterward secretary of the league, who has recently returned to the city, and Mrs. H. A. Gillenwater, the first recording secretary of the league. Remarks were also made by Mrs. Mary V. Noerr, Mr. Edward F. Simpson, Mr. A. L. Swartwout, John F. Vinal and

others.

The following churches, temperance societies and other organizations had representatives present: Calvary Baptist Church, Christian Endeavor Society and Intermediate Christian Endeavor Society; Ninth Street Christian C. E. Society, Vermont Avenue Christian C. E. Society, First Congregational Church Temperance Society, Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, Memorial Lutheran C. E. Society, Douglas Memorial Lutheran C. E. Society, Douglas Memorial Lutheran C. E. Society, Douglas Memorial Lutheran C. E. Society, Poundry S. S. Temperance Society, Mt. Vernon Place C. E. Society, Tenleytown M. E. Church, Waugh Sunday school, Eastern Presbyterian Church and C. E. Society, Gunton Temple Memorial Church and C. E. Society, Peck Memorial Church and C. E. Society, He Grand and District Lodges, Columbia, Independent Minnehaha and Silver Star Lodges, and the Juvenile Temples I. O. G. T.; the District Union, Capitol Hill, Chapin, Frances Willard, Georgetown, Hamilne, Northwest and West End Unions, W. C. T. U.; Headquarters "Y," Vermont Avenue "Y," Woman's Loyal Temperance Legion, Wesley Chapel Band of Hope, Association Cadets, Central Union Mission, District of Columbia C. E. Union, Washington District Epworth League, Young People's Union of the Liberal Churches, and others. The following churches, temperar

The next meeting of the league is to be held at the same place, Monday, March 5.

LOCAL COURTS-MARTIAL. Trials of Soldiers at Washington Bar-

A general court-martial has assembled at Fort Myer, Va., for the trial of such persons as may be brought before it. The detail for the court is Capts. Francis H. Hardie and John B. McDonald, Lieuts.

H. Hardie and John B. McDonald, Lieuts. Charles A. Hedekin, Francis J. Koester, Alfred C. Merillat, Ervin L. Phillips, Robert R. Wallach and Godwin Ordway, judge advocate. All the officers are attached to the 3d Cavalry.

As a result of court-martial proceedings at Fort Myer, Va., Private Max Serchermiffer, Battery L, 4th Artillery, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment and sentenced to two months' imprisonment an \$20 fine; Private James F. Pearson, Bai

RIGHTS OF THE CONSTITUTION. Representative Dalsell Speaks on the Porto Rican Bill.

In the House yesterday afternoon Mr. Richardson spoke over an hour on the Porto Rico bill. He was several times interrupted by applause from his side of the House. This applause was especially vig-orous when he said that every democratic vote would be cast against the bill.

When he concluded Mr. Dalzell (Pa.), second ranking majority member of the ways and means committee, took the floor. He made a close legal and constitutional argument in support of the contention of the majority that the Constitution did not ex-

end over our new possessions.

"By the treaty with Spain," said Mr. Daltell, "we acquired the islands constituting "By the treaty with Spain," said Mr. Dalzell, "we acquired the islands constituting the Philippines and Porto Rico. The treaty is an accomplished fact. Whatever may be our ultimate purpose we can now do nothing but provide for these acquisitions in such a way as shall best promote their welfare and our own." Continuing, he pointed out the differences between Porto Rico and the Philippines in extent of territory, population, character of inhabitants, civilization, products of the soil, etc.
"Yet," said he, "attempting now for the first time to legislate for one of these new possessions, we must be governed by one fixed, unvarying system; and that the system which applies to the United States itself." It was an amazing proposition involving three prominent features, free trade, citizenship and navigation laws, It would be better to let the islands go.

Extension of the Constitution.

Extension of the Constitution.

Taking up the contention that upon the acquisition of new territory the Constitution is extended thereto ex proprio vigore. Mr. Dalzell cited the case of the American Insurance Company vs. Canter, in which Whipple and Webster met this very which Whipple and Webster met this very argument in the case of Florida. Much argument was used in that case to show that the Constitution and laws of the United States were per se in force in Florida and that the inhabitants were citizens of the United States. Webster and Whipple asked how the Constitution became of force in Florida. Was it by the act of cession? Was there any principle in the law of nations which upon the act of cession or conquest gives to the ceded or conquered country a right to participate in the privileges of the Constitution of the parent country?

The usages of nations from the period of Grecian colonization to the present moment

The usages of nations from the period of Grecian colonization to the present moment were precisely the reverse. Such a right never was asserted. The Constitution was established by the people of the United States for the United States. It provides for the future admission of countries into the Union and expressly confers upon Congress the power of governing them as territories until they are admitted as states. If the Constitution was in force in Florida why was it not represented in Congress? Why was it necessary to pass an act of is really nine and until he fully realizes the fact. He must know the facts of arithmetic before he is taught the multiplication table.

Mr. Powell said that he stood almost alone in advocating that children in the first and second grades should go to school during an entire day. He did this because in those grades half their time is spent in outside employments.

Employment of Teachers.

Mr. Powell explained the method of appointing teachers from the list of Normal school graduates.

Mr. Gailinger asked if he had power to dismiss and how he dismissed an incompetent teacher.

Mr. Powell—"Yes, sir; no, sir. We try to make her better."

Mr. Gailinger—"That is worse than modern civil service. You can dismiss under the civil service haw for cause."

Mr. Powell—"The rules provide that I may suspend a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher, but I think I have no power to dismiss a teacher.

As secretary. Vice President on power of the month of as called to preside temporarily, and Mr. C. A. Here on the executive committee to not represented in Congress called to preside temporarily, and Mr. Mr. Why was it necessary to pass an act of the United States of He United States to Florida? Why did the vecture of affiliate on the fague, to refer the cague, to refer the ca

yond dollars and cents. If we must have free trade with Porto Rico we must with the Philippines. The result might be the planting of immense areas of sugar and tobacco. The low wages pald would be a menace to labor in this country.

Consent of the Governed.

Turning to the question of the consent of the governed, Mr. Dalzell asserted that in a representative republic the right to govern did not depend on the consent of the

The methods of government prescribed by the principles of Anglican liberty as practiced in the United States would be grotesque in the Philippine islands, and would bring to their people no advantage. They would be in point of fact impossible of ex-

ercise.

"The guarantees of liberty," he concluded, "do not exist alone in the Constitution of the United States. They do not depend upon the great instrument for their strength and perpetuity. They would continue to live and flourish if that Constitution were annihilated. They are the indestructible heritage of humanity.

Mr. Dalzell received an ovation when he finished.

finished.

The House then, at 5 o'clock, took a recess until 8 o'clock, the evening session to be devoted to private pension legislation.

Nothing was accomplished at the night session of the House last night, which was to have been devoted to pension legislation.

Mr. Talbert of South Carolina made the point of no querum and blocked present point of no quorum and blocked proceed-ings. The House remained in session until 10 o'clock in the hope of getting a quorum, and then adjourned

PROPOSED HONOR FOR MERRITT.

Los Angeles Times Advocates Making Him a Lieutenant General. ecial Dispatch to The Evening Star.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., February 19 .- The Los Angeles Times says, editorfally: "Congress could not perform a more graceful act, and at the same time an act which would more fully meet the approval of the cetter sentiment of the entire country, than to pass a law giving to Major General Wesley Merritt, who will retire from the army a few months hence, under the age limita-

a few months hence, under the age limitation, the rank of lieutenant general.

"General Merritt has well earned this mark of distinction by long, fathful and arduous duty in the military service of his country. It should be the policy of the government to reward in a suitable manner those men who serve the nation with conspicuous gallantry and merit. If there is any man in the army today who is richly deserving of such promotion and preferment that man is Major General Wesley Merritt. He is a patriot as well as a soldier. He is in every sense of the word a gallant gentleman and a true American. In honoring him in the manner suggested Congress would honor itself and the public, for the people will rejoice at the advancement of so brave a man and so deserving a soldier as General Merritt.

"It is to be hoped that this matter will be taken up by Congress at an early day, and it is equally to be hoped that there may be no opposition to conferring this reward upon so brave, loyal and deserving an officer."

Alaskan Tide Lands. the schools, and a number of irregular things had been done. He charged that Mr. Richardson's daughter was ineligible as a teacher, and the board voted against her, but she was put in afterward. Schools could be consolidated so as to save the salaries of thirty teachers, but it was not done. The law provided for three music teachers in the colored schools, but there were seven. Salaries were doubled, so that one teacher would get two salaries, and The Secretary of the Interior has con-

AN IMPORTANT SUIT

Court of Claims Case Bearing on the Post Office Building.

CONTRACTORS ASK FOR BIG DAMAGES

Steam Heating Work Revealing the Department's Flaws.

A SUPPRESSED REPORT

Suit against the United States for \$63,000 as been instituted in the Court of Claims by Charles F. Wood and John L. Moyer. rading as the Philadelphia Steam Heating Company. The action grows out of the contract entered into between the government and the complainant company for the steam heating plant and apparatus for the Washington city post office building. In the petition filed in connection with the claim Messrs. Wood and Moyer charge that they were hampered, interrupted and interfered with by the government's officers and agents, and were subjected to heavy expense and consequent loss by numerous changes decided upon in the supervising architect's office after the original specifications had been complied with.

It has been known for some time has that there were differences existing between the steam-heating contractors and the government officers in charge of the erection of the new post office building, about which there has already been much criticism and conflict of opinion. A board of survey was demanded by the contrac-tors some time ago, after, according to their statement, they had been harassed and wrongfully accused. The report of this and wrongfully accused. The report of this board has never been made public

No Answer Filed Yet.

The government has filed no answer se far in the claim that has been entered against the United States. The case is expected to attract considerable attention, and will probably attain to great importance in the bearing it will undoubtedly have upon the system now in vogue in the conduct of building operations carried on directly by the government. The claimants state it as their intention to introduce some interesting facts in connection with the system that will be, they say, in the nature of revelations.

The claimants in their petition to the court outline briefly the contracts entered

court outline briefly the contracts entered into between them and the government re-garding the steam heating of the new build-

garding the steam heating of the new building. Proceeding, they say:

"The petitioners completed said work in
strict accordance with said contracts, subject to certain changes and modifications
required by the government's officers and
agents, and fell short of nothing with regard thereto, the government's officials and
agents accepting the same as having been
done to their entire satisfaction.

Defective Plans and Specifications.

"But the petitioners say that, owing to certain delays in the prosecution of said work, caused by the government's officers and agents, for which petitioners were in no wise responsible, causing petitioners much extra expense, and because of certain much extra expense, and because of certain defective plans and specifications furnished by the government, through which petition-ers were put to extra expense and subject-ed to great less, and because of certain extra work required of the petitioners by

extra work required of the petitioners by the said officers and agents, for which they have not been paid, the petitioners have not received of the government the compensation to which their said work justly entitled them."

The petition next states the numerous instances of alleged hindrance and delay in the prosecution of their work. Many of these recited deal strictly with technicalities in the machinery and appearates. It ties in the machinery and apparatus. It is stated that, while the petitioners were earn stated that, while the petitioners were earn-estly and actively engaged in the general prosecution of their work, the government, acting through Assistant Secretary of the Treasury O. L. Spalding, on May 8, 1897, suspended all work incident to galvanized fron vent-ducts and running steam-risers for interior rooms, including and above the second story, until March 9, 1898, whereby, it is claimed, great loss of time and much extra expense was caused the patitions. extra expense was caused the petitioners, without their fault, and by causing all of the work on the galvanized iron vent-ducts in the basement to be suspended from May 11 to July 8, 1897, in order that the contractor for the plastering might have time to complete his work.

Continuing, the petition cites the following instances of delay and alleged loss. extra expense was caused the petition

The Boilers.

"That it was a part of the original conract that petitioners should furnish boilers of certain sizes and dimensions, which sizes and dimensions were clearly shown upon the drawings upon which said contract was based, and set forth in detail and at length in the specifications accompanying the same; but that by reason of latent errors and discrepancies in said drawings and specifications it was physilatent errors and discrepancies in said drawings and specifications it was physically impossible to accomplish the complete construction thereof; that immediately upon the award of the original contract petitioners had entered into subcontracts with certain material men for the said boilers; but that owing to the said latent errors and discrepancies which developed during the construction of said boilers, it became necessary for the government to revise and modify the original plans of said construction, and the government did submit to the petitioners, July 10, 1897, revised and modified plans for the construction thereof, which revised plans petitioners forwarded immediately to the said subcontractors for said boilers, with directions to change the construction accordingly, which modifications and changes occasioned loss of much valuable time and resulting extra expense to the petitioners; that there afterward developed certain vital errors and discrepancies in said revised plans for the construction of said boilers, which made it necessary. September 4, 1897, for the government to modify and change said revised plans, which last named modifications and changes petitioners immediately forwarded to the subcontractors for this work, with directions to carry out the same; and that by reason of these last named modifications and changes the reasonable progress of the work of the petitioners under the original contract was hindered and impeded, to their great loss in time and money.

Smokestacks Would Not Fit Structure.

"That it was a nart of the vicinal contract."

Smokestacks Would Not Fit Structure "That it was a part of the original con-tract that smokestacks should be erected in the building in a certain manner indicated on the said original drawings; but that when petitioners proceeded to the erection thereof it was found that the structural ironwork of the building previously erected by the contractor for that work, without petitioners' knowledge, prevented the erection of said smokestacks in vented the erection of said smokestacks in accordance with petitioners' contract; whereupon the government's officers and agents directed petitioners to remove such portions of said structural ironwork as interfered with their work, and that by reason of the delay attending the determination of the above question and the extra work of removing said structural ironwork, petitioners were occasioned the loss of valuable time, and were subjected to extra expense.

able time, and were subjected to extra expense.

"That one of the provisions of the original contract required the petitioners to construct a system of underground castiron and brick trenches of certain sizes and in certain locations; that petitioners in due time proceeded to the installation of said work, but by reason of interferences on the Part of certain sewer pines formeditions. part of certain sewer pipes, foundations



Sweetest thing that can be seen Is a baby, fresh and clean. Dainty clothes and tender skin Need pure soap to wash them in." Nurse and mother must be sure Baby's bath is sweet and pure. Free from grease or alkalies; Ivory Soap their want supplies.

etc., previously installed by contractors for that work, without the knowledge of the petitioners, they were prevented from carrying out said work in accordance with the original plans under the original contract, but were compelled at various times during the progress of this work, by orders of the government's officers and agents to of the government's officers and agents, to make changes and modifications in the plans of said work, because of the said interferences, thereby causing petitioners the loss of valuable time and incurrence of extra expense."

Hampered by the Bond Issue Force. A number of instances of like character are specified, together with the following

paragraphs:

bond issue and the necessity for a place to install the clerks and employes of the to install the clerks and employes of the government engaged in the work of said issue in the summer of 1898 the government, through its officers and agents, did on or about June 20, 1898, enter into and take possession of the first floor of said building and install therein a large force of clerks and employes, and did at various and sundry times interrupt and interfere with the petitioners' work by directing the stoppage thereof between the hours of 9 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m., and by locking up certain portions of the building and excluding petitioners therefrom, where and in which petitioners were carrying on certain portions of their work under said contracts, and refusing petitioners access certain portions of their work under said contracts, and refusing petitioners access thereto both day and night, so that petitioners were prevented from making measurements for materials to be used in their said work; that said interferences and interruptions continued from about June 20, 1898, to about the last of September, 1898, wherein and whereby petitioners sustained, without their fault, much loss of time and money in the execution of their work under their said contract.

their said contract. "That by reason of many and various other interferences and interruptions with the reasonable progress of the work at divers and sundry times, by the governdivers and sundry times, by the government's officers and agents, and by reason of divers other errors and discrepancies in the plans and specifications furnished the petitioners by the government for the prosecution of the work; by reason of improper and imperfect materials called for by said plans and specifications prepared by the government's officers and agents, and used by the petitioners at the instance of the government in doing the work, and by delays caused in the progress of the work. delays caused in the progress of the work by disagreements resulting from the use of said improper and imperfect materials and said improper and imperiect materials and erroneous and unjust interpretation of the said plans and specifications upon the part of the government's officers and agents, the petitioners, without their fault, were subjected to great loss of time and put to much extra express."

Mr. Wood's Pamphlet

Mr. Charles Francis Wood of Wayne, Pa. the suing firm, has written a pamphlet to Congress and mailed a copy to each senator and representative. In this he details his experiences as a government contractor under the present system of construction by the government. In his

pamphlet Mr. Wood says:
"It has been said that 'there are families in Washington who can trace their ar in Washington who can trace their ancestry back to the beginning of the new post office building,' and yet this particular one is not different from any others that could be named. Would not the written history of the post office at Washington fit almost any other building of similar magnitude constructed under the direction of the supervising architect's office of the Treasury Department with only a change of arms? partment, with only a change of name?
"It is true that I have been insulted abused, vilified and accused of all sorts of At is true that I have been insulted, abused, vilified and accused of all sorts of underhanded actions during my experience with this system, when the fault lay entirely with those who made the plans from which the work was done. It is true that the scoundrelly decisions of the underlings in charge of the work were affirmed by the supervising architect, and that, after months of bitter controversy, brought on by the errors and blunders in the plans and specifications for the work, I had to appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury for the appointment of a board of arbitration to settle the differences. It is true that after having entered into this arbitration with the Secretary of the Treasury, and after having bound myself in writing to accept the award of this board, the report of the board was concealed and suppressed to cover up the blundering stupidity so glaringly brought out in the investigations of the plans and specifications prepared by the er up the bundering stupinty so giarnigly brought out in the investigations of the plans and specifications prepared by the supervising architect. It is true that I have never been allowed even to see this report, when, by all the laws and rules of honorable warfare and controversy, I was justly entitled to a copy, and my rights in this particular were fully equal to those of the other party to the arbitration. It is equally true that after months of careful investigation the board of naval engineers, who were officers and gentlemen, reported in my favor on every material point and wrote boldly on pages of the records referring to this contract, not only a refutation of the charges which had been made against me, but a scathing arraignment of the methods of the architect's office as well; and, while these records have been concealed in an or the architect's office as well; and, while these records have been concealed in an endeavor to hide the inefficiency, or worse, of the architect's office, I can well afford to await the time of their publicity through the courts of the United States for my vin-dication."

Muzzling of Dogs. To the Editor of The Evening Star:

The statutes give the Commissioners the power "To regulate the keeping and run-ning at large of dogs and fowls," but sec-

auty of the Commissioners to issue a proclamation requiring that all dogs shall, for a period to be defined in the proclamation, wear good, substantial muzzles, securely put on, so as to prevent them from biting or snapping, and any dog geing at large during the period defined by the Commissioners without such muzzle shall be taken by the poundmaster and impounded, subject to the provisions of section 3."

Under this authority the Commissioners issued the muzzle order, so vexatious to the citizens and torturing to the dogs. The provisions of section 3 in regard to impounded dogs apply only to dogs found running at large, "without tax tags," and section 4 provides that "any dog wearing the tax tag hereinbefore provided for shall be permitted to run at large in the District of Columbia, and shall be regarded as personal property in all the courts of said District, and any person injuring or destroying the same shall be liable to a civil action for damages, which, upon proof of such injuring or killing, may be awarded in a sum equal to the value usually put upon such property by persons buying and selling the same, subject to such modifications as the particular circumstances of the case may make proper."

Section 11 provides that "after this act selling the same, selling the same, selling the same was the particular circumstances of the case may make proper."

Section 11 provides that "after this act dogs shall be deemed and held to be personal property."

The Constitution provides that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law," "nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

Dogs, being private property, are, if taken from the owner, so taken for public use, and the owner is entitled to compensation, and the Constitution is Infringed in that the owner is deprived of his preperty without due process of law." The muzzle

lamation requiring that all dogs shall, for

that the owner is deprived of his property "without due process of law." The muzzle ordinance if applied to taxed or tagged dogs is unconstitutional The owners of dogs having compiled with the law and put tax tags on their dogs have, under the contract set forth in section 4, secured vested rights to have their dogs "run at large." "Running at large" has a technical meaning, as the running of cows and horses outside the premises of their owners and on public grounds and highways, uncontrolled. Animals driven through the streets and highways are not running at large. Nor is a dog accompanying his streets and highways are not running at large. Nor is a dog accompanying his master or mistress and under the usual control in such case "running at large." And especially when such dog is in leash or upon the lot or premises of its owner. The District is liable to pay for every tax-tagged dog taken by the poundmaster not less, certainly, than the \$2 paid for tax and tag, and as much more as a court may be satisfied by evidence that it was worth. Nor does the law and proclamation of the Commissioners shield the poundmaster from personal liability. The proclamation should in no event be construed to apply to dogs wearing a tax tag as provided by section 4.

ided by section 4. By what evidence or means the Commis-By what evidence or means the Commissioners were induced to issue such an absurd proclamation at this season of the year is to me incomprehensible. An old ordinance provided for the killing of "unmuzzled dogs going upon the streets and avenues and other public places between the 15th day of May and the 15th day of October," And the poundmaster was authorized to take up and dispose of such dogs. I do not suppose that there has ever been more than one or two cases of well-developed hydrophobia in this city. Hundreds of people have died from the effects of the old open sewer of Tiber creek, by the emanations from the rotten pavement about the Center Market and reeking alleys. On an average, one human before to exceptions. recking alleys. On an average, one human being is sacrificed or badly injured weekly by the steam and electric railroads. There by the steam and electric railroads. There is enough to occupy the attention and time of health officers and Commissioners in correcting evils affecting the lives and health of our citizens, without this sticking implements of torture on dogs. The best way out of the mess is to repeal the proclamation ordinance.

R. L. B. C.

FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.

Result of Criminal Prosecutions by the Pension Bureau. David W. Owens of Tolland, Mass., was held by United States Commissioner Mar-

vin, at Hartford, Conn., under \$2,500 bond for the action of the grand jury on a for the action of the grand jury on a charge of having filed a fraudulent claim for pension based upon the altered discharge certificate of a comrade, it being alleged that Owens is a deserter and borrowed the discharge certificate of an associate by the name of See, altering the same by inserting his own name in the place of that of his comrade.

Mrs. Jennie Ramsey of Minneapolis, Minn., was arrested in that city on the 12th instant on the charge of having fraudulently drawn a pension after her remar-

ulently drawn a pension after her remar-riage. She was held under \$800 bond to riage. She was held under \$800 bond to await the action of the grand jury, and in default thereof was committed to jail.

George J. Grotton, a notary public, was convicted and sentenced in the United States district court at Portland, Me., on the 12th instant on the charge of having violated the provisions of the act of July

the 12th instant on the charge of having violated the provisions of the act of July 7, 1898, in the execution of numerous vouchers for pensioners.

Ann Keller, the widow of John Cusick, who served in the United States havy and who died in 1887, she remarrying the next year, recently filed an application for pension as Cusick's widow in which she falsely claimed that she had not remarried since his death. For this offense she was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the Hudson county, New Jersey, penitentiary. tion 7, chapter 3, provides that "When-